



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

March 26, 2008

Brian L. Wolff, Treasurer  
Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee  
430 South Capitol Street SE, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20003

**Response Due Date:**  
**April 25, 2008**

Identification Number: C00000935

Reference: June Monthly Report (5/01/07-5/31/07)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 7 items:

1. Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report discloses a payment(s) from a federal candidate committee(s) for goods and/or services provided by your committee. 11 CFR §100.52(d)(1) states that "...the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge which is less than the usual and normal charge for such goods or services is a contribution." Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, membership lists and mailing lists. The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as "...the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution". The usual and normal charge for services is defined as "...the hourly or piecework charge for the services at a commercially reasonable rate prevailing at the time the services were rendered." 11 CFR §100.52(d)(2)

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided to the federal candidate committee(s) and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount(s) charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at less than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an in-kind contribution by your committee to the federal

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candidate committee(s) and is subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441a. (11 CFR §100.52(d)(1))

2. Schedule A supporting Line 17 of your report discloses a payment from **American List Council, Inc.** It appears this receipt was for goods and/or services provided by your committee. Pursuant to Advisory Opinion 1979-18, the sale/purchase price paid to a political committee could involve the receipt of a contribution from a purchaser if the purchase price exceeds the "usual and normal charge". The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution. Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, advertising services, membership lists, and mailing lists. 11 CFR §100.52(d)(1) and (2)

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at more than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an in-kind contribution received by your committee from a corporation and is prohibited subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441b(a)

3. Schedule E supporting Line 24 of your report discloses negative entries for the receipt of apparent refunds/rebates and/or adjustments of expenditures ("Production Refund"(s)) made during this or previous reporting periods. Please be advised that the receipt of offsets to operating expenditures should be disclosed on Schedule A supporting Line 15 of the Detailed Summary Page if the vendor wrote a refund/rebate check on its account. This method of reporting would clarify for the public record the total amount of receipts and more accurately disclose the cash-on-hand amount. Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information. In addition, please amend any subsequent report(s) that may be affected by this correction.

4. Your calculations for Line 8 appear to be incorrect. Cash-on-hand at the close of the current reporting period should always equal the closing calendar year-to-date cash-on-hand amount. Please provide the corrected total on the Summary Page.

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5. Schedule A of your report discloses earmarked contributions totaling \$70,600, with little or no corresponding entries on Schedule B (Two earmarked contributions listed on Line 23, Schedule B, totaling \$8,436.59). Pursuant to 11 CFR §110.6(c)(1)(v), all earmarked contributions that have passed through a conduit's account must be itemized on the receipt (Schedule A) and disbursement (Schedule B) schedules, regardless of amount. **All earmarked contributions that have been forwarded in the form of the contributor's check or written instrument must be itemized as memo entries on the receipt (Schedule A) and disbursement (Schedule B) schedules, regardless of the amount.** Please amend your report to clarify these discrepancies.

6. Schedule B of your report discloses "conduit memo entries" that appear to be earmarked contributions totaling \$61,500, with no corresponding entries on Schedule A. Pursuant to 11 CFR §110.6(c), all earmarked contributions, that have passed through a conduit's account, must be itemized on the receipt (Schedule A) and disbursement (Schedule B) schedules, regardless of the amount. **All earmarked contributions that have been forwarded in the form of the contributor's check or written instrument must be itemized as memo entries on the receipt (Schedule A) and disbursement (Schedule B) schedules, regardless of amount.** Please identify the original contributors for the earmarked contributions disclosed on Schedule B.

7. Schedule E supporting Line 24 of your report discloses an independent expenditure(s) on behalf of **Ron Lewis H/KY/02, Michael Weaver H/KY/02, Christopher Paul Carney H/PA/10, Michael Louis Whalen H/IA/01, Donald Sherwood H/PA/10, Joy Padgett H/OH/18, Dave Reichert H/WA/08, and Deborah Pryce H/OH/15** which appears to have been publicly disseminated or distributed after the **2006 general election date**. Please be advised that if a communication is aired in one reporting period and the payment is made in a later reporting period, the independent expenditure should be reported as a memo entry on Schedule E when the communication is publicly disseminated or distributed, and on a Schedule D if it is a reportable debt under 11 CFR 104.11. When the payment for the independent expenditure is made, the report should show a payment on Schedule E and the same payment on Schedule D, if applicable.

Please amend your report to provide further clarifying information regarding the independent expenditure(s) disclosed after the general election date.

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**Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1144.

Sincerely,



Edward D. Ryan  
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst  
Reports Analysis Division

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